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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/600,277	SLAWINSKI, MICHAEL D.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Victor K. Hwang	3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed February 07, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 17-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 February 2005 and 21 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20050318</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|


JEROME W. DONNELLY
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kenneth S. Watkins, Jr. on March 18, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

- A) Page 13, line 16, replace "24" with --25--.

In the Claims:

- A) Cancel claims 12-16.
- B) Amend claims 10, 17 and 18 as follows:

-- Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A stop assembly for limiting upward translation of a weight engagement assembly along an elongated weight support assembly of a free-weight apparatus comprising:

a frame portion comprising a rectangular cross sectional shape defining a sliding fit with said elongated weight support assembly;

an engagement element operably attached to the frame portion to define an engaged position with said engagement element biased inwardly from said frame by a bias element and a disengaged position with said engagement element retracted against the bias of said bias element by a disengagement element operably attached to said frame;

said engagement element is a pin attached to said disengagement element;

said bias element is a spring operably attached to said pin and said
disengagement element;

a hand positioning grip extending outwardly from said frame whereby a hand of an operator can position said stop assembly along said elongated weight support assembly and;

said hand positioning grip comprises a vertically extending portion providing a
reaction surface for positioning said disengagement element against spring bias;

said disengagement element is a U-shaped bar supported by a sliding bearing on
each of two sides of said frame portion; and

a load bearing surface on a bottom portion of said stop assembly whereby said stop assembly prevents said upward translation of said weight engagement assembly.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The stop assembly of claim ~~16~~ 10 wherein said pin is attached to a cross beam disposed on a back portion of said frame portion and insertable through an opening in said back portion of said frame and said spring is disposed between said cross beam and a back support plate attached to said back portion of said frame portion.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The stop assembly of claim ~~15~~ 10 comprising an upper bushing insert of low friction polymer material attached to an inner portion of said frame portion.—

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor K. Hwang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4976. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM Eastern time.

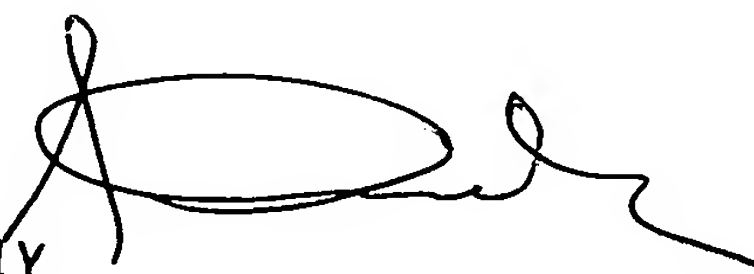
The facsimile number for submitting papers directly to the examiner for informal correspondence is (571) 273-4976. The facsimile number for submitting all formal correspondence at this time is (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Victor K. Hwang
March 18, 2005



JEROME W. DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER